

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir. The Scientists of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi, in a Joint representation dated 16.5.2000 addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the ex-officio President, CSIR without specifically mentioning the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had stated that frequent vigilance inquiries etc. in the recent past have created a fear psychosis resulting in serious impediments in implementation of time bound projects.

(b) No assessment of impact on research undertaken by CSIR Scientists in different Laboratories/Institutes has been made so far.

(c) Steps are afoot to evolve a mechanism to educate the scientists and make them more aware of the vigilance procedures through suitable awareness programmes.

**Apprehension of CSIR Scientists**

2315. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Indian Express dated 19th May, 2000 under the caption, "CSIR Scientists fear set back to research as directors quit".

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted into the reasons for resignation of scientists from CSIR; and

(c) if so, the details and remedial action taken, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No. Sir. The two Directors referred to in the newsitem did not resign from their post, infact, they were on foreign service terms with CSIR. On the Specific requests made based on purely

personal reasons and with the approval of the competent authority they have been repatriated to their respective parent departments.

(c) Does not arise.

**Vacant post of directors in CSIR**

2316. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the director's posts in a few laboratories under CSIR are vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the date of vacancy and the steps taken to appoint Directors;

(c) whether the Acting Director in any laboratory is appointed from among scientists of the same laboratory, by violating seniority of scientist working in the regional centre of the same laboratory; and

(d) if so, the details of the above seniority violation and the rectification thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the details of vacancies alongwith the date of vacancy and steps taken to appoint Directors is annexed. (See below).

(c) and (d) The position of the Acting Director of a National Laboratory/Institute cannot be bestowed upon an individual by virtue of seniority alone. In case the seniormost scientist is not considered capable for the assignment, additional charge to the Director of a nearby Lab/Instt. if any, or to the next seniormost scientist is given. In the singular case where the seniormost scientist working in one of the Regional centres outside the Head Quarters of a CSIR National Institute, has not been considered fit even for the position of the scientist-in-charge of the Regional Centre, the question of handing over the temporary charge of the post of Director to such scientist does not arise and the position was given to the next seniormost scientist.